



Good morning. My name is Sam Summers and I would like to talk to you about the Autism Insurance Bills. When I was two years old, I was lost in my own world. I didn't speak. I didn't respond to my name. I didn't play with toys. I didn't smile or point or wave. I didn't interact with people. That's because I had autism. When I was diagnosed with autism, the doctors and therapists recommended intensive intervention. That means they thought I needed a LOT of therapy. But as my mom eventually discovered, none of the things that could help me get better were covered by our health insurance. That's right – our health insurance didn't pay for ANY of my therapy. That's because they said autism isn't treatable. But I'm here today to tell you that it is.

Because of the treatment I received, those same experts removed my autism diagnosis before my fifth birthday. I started kindergarten in a regular classroom without any type of support. In fact, I'm an "A" student! And my teacher would definitely agree...I SURE can talk now! I'm just a regular kid in fourth grade, and I used to have autism. I like to ride my skateboard, and play basketball, and read books, and listen to my mp3 player! I plan to go to college one day and become a veterinarian. I have friends, and a bright future. OBVIOUSLY autism is treatable!

I hope you will support the Autism Insurance Legislation, so other kids can get better too! Thank you everyone for giving me the chance to talk to you about how I got better from autism.

